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Notes from KO4ZFO (Rodney)

Thank you all for attending our annual Chili cook off meeting. Please remember to think about the following up-coming events.

RARSfest is fast approaching and we will have a club table. If you are interested in selling anything at the event, please let Richard or me know, so we can plan accordingly for getting a sale table.

Winter Field Day is at the end of the month, so anyone interested in participating please let me know.

Summer Field Day is also a hot topic this time of year, so be thinking about your ideas now, so we can plan to have a great Field Day with our Club Family and hopefully the community. At the next meeting we will talk again about this to get your feedback.

News Flash: All future meetings of the club will be in Bldg 1, until further notice, on the first Wednesday of each month.

We ask you to keep the following in your thoughts and prayers:

Gary, KO4LQX, Kenny, KJ4CVK, and Steve, KA0GMY.

Steve, KA0GMY, continues to have health issues, so remember him, Steve Jr., and Miss Gloria as well (particularly).



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Gary Plante, KO4LQX, reports that he is in palliative care that involves lab work, oncology and immunotherapy, all on one day, every three weeks. He needs our continued thoughts and prayers as it seems he will never be cured (his words) but this treatment regimen helps his voice quality and strength and is supposed to keep the cancer at bay! He really needs our prayer support for his continued health battles (report from Richard Hall).

Kenny (KJ4CVK), has ongoing health issues, so keep him in your thoughts. We haven't heard him on the radio in quite some time so consider reaching out to him.

SWARC de KO4ZFO

Notes from WB4SMS (Steve)

Hello SWARC and Happy New Year! We had a great meeting and had discussions on what YOU, our members, want to see for the upcoming Field Day in June. So, please think about what you want and bring that information to the February meeting so we can get ahead of the game and make sure proper invitations are sent and we can work on public announcements. Also, remember, February is the annual club auction. So, clean out your shack and bring anything you are willing to part with and let's see if we can find a new owner for your stuff. Also, bring cash as this is a cash auction.

The January meeting brought back the 50/50 raffle to the club meetings. Rodney KO4ZFO won and donated his winnings back to the



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club, so we added \$40 to the treasury. We will be running a 50/50 raffle at each meeting.

SWARC de WB4SMS

SWARC 3 January 2024 Meeting Minutes

The meeting was well attended and there was plenty of chili and sides. This was certainly one of the best turnouts of members and guests in quite some time.

Those in physical attendance were:

Richard Hall (K7RLH), Bill Blomgren (KK4QDZ), Al Crawford (WA4TCJ), Linda Crawford (KI4LO), Steve Suzanne (WB4SMS), Don Nicholson (KN4OEY), Paul Nicholson (KN4NGI), Brian Knox (KK4BK), Rodney Warren (KO4ZFO), Robert Walker (KQ4GSA), Steve Worth (NC4SW), Christy Fernandini (KJ4AEO), Gino Fernandini (KI4YXO), and son, Rich Gehle (N4DPQ) and wife Jane., Ken Castille (KN4GUS), Phil Warnick (KQ4MSQ), and guest Ted Root (N1UJ) and another two whose names I did not get.

The meeting was opened at 6:58 pm and introductions were made around the room—we had three guests as noted. Officer and chair reports are included in the body of these minutes or as newsletter items from our President and Vice President.

Old/Unfinished Business

None



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New Business

Richard (K7RLH) initiated a discussion on grant funding available and whether or not we want to apply for funding to make continued improvements to our radio room. He also referenced the need to create a letter/memorandum of understanding between the club and AL Post 116, just for protection of our rights to use the currently available facilities.

Program/Presentation

Brian Knox (KK4BK), the Nominating Chair, asked us to start considering candidates for the various officer positions; he specifically addressed the Board of Director positions, with emphasis on the others to follow in future meetings prior to the nomination process beginning in March.

Brian also led the discussion regarding Summer Field Day (last full weekend of June) and how the club might participate this year. He asked several folks around the room for their thoughts and memories of Field Day and what they would like to see and participate in. This actually was quite a lively topic and there was spirited discussion and thoughts shared by the members present.



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Public Service

Here is an extract from Jeremy Lindsley's recent email to the Five County Ham Radio Enthusiasts group:

"Happy New Year!

Ham radio has a long history of providing communication support during emergencies and natural disasters. While this tradition continues to varying degrees, there are other ways that ham radio enthusiasts can help our communities. One way for us to get out of our shacks and lend a helpful hand is by volunteering as a communicator for charitable events like fundraising walks and bike rides. Serving as a ham radio volunteer for such events is a great way to test and put into service the go-box you built, get on the air and practice formal net protocol, and spend time with your fellow ham radio users. Supporting these events also makes ham radio visible and demonstrates to the public (and, hopefully, governmental agencies, including the FCC) that it is still relevant as an independent method of communication. It also helps recruit more people into the hobby. Most importantly, it's fun!

Last year, our volunteers gave over 117 hours of their time to support charitable events in and around the Triangle. This year, we hope to add new events to the schedule and make 2024 the busiest season yet! To accomplish this, we need your help. Please consider spending some time with us as a ham radio communications volunteer and enjoy a day or even just a part of a day getting on the air and hanging out with other ham radio operators.

If you are new to ham radio or public service events, please head over to the Ham Public Service North Carolina website (www.hpsnc.org) for more information about HPSNC, volunteering for public service events, and signing up. Volunteering with HPSNC is open to ALL licensed amateur radio operators of any class. If you have questions about volunteering with HPSNC, please contact me.



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The 2024 public service event schedule is coming together, and a few events already have confirmed dates and locations. Beginning today, you can sign up for these events at www.hpsnc.org. More events will open for registration when the organizers confirm the dates and locations.

I look forward to the coming season and to seeing you at one or more of the events during the 2024 season.

73,

Jeremy Lindsley K2HJX
HPSNC Coordinator
919-523-9631
K2HJX@att.net

Check the HPSNC.org web site often for Public Service opportunities. The public service season is upon us and events need volunteers. You may also get to public service events on the RARS and SWARC websites.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Christy Fernandini's report detailed the \$600.00 payment to Danny Hampton for repeater support and a bank fee of \$3.00. Income was \$245.00 from tee shirt sales, dues and equipment sale at JARSfest. Balance of \$1,999.58 with no obligated funds or invoices outstanding. Overall, the club is healthy but we could use more renewals from



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members and recruiting of new ones. Perhaps the 50-50 drawings will produce some additional funding as well.

The meeting was officially adjourned around 8:00 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Richard Hall K7RLH
Secretary and Newsletter Editor

MEMBERSHIP

You can bring a check or cash for dues to the next meeting or mail them to the club PO box and Christy will advise she has received them. Also, you can now renew somewhat online by contacting Christy and giving her the appropriate credit card info for the 'Square' account. Christy's email is christyfernandini@outlook.com. Make checks payable to South Wake ARC and send to South Wake ARC – PO Box 1565 – Fuquay Varina, NC 27526

NET REPORT

SWARC Group – November 2023

There were three hams who were net check-in champs for December; they are Bill (KK4QDZ), Al (WA3JJG), and Richard (K7RLH). The monthly



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total of check-ins was 339—a significant uptick from last month! Note that **not** all net controls record their counts so numbers could actually be higher than recorded.

- Saturday and Sunday evenings will be called by KT4JR & K7RLH
- KO4ZFO will call Monday evenings
- KN4OEY will call Tuesday evenings
- KK4BK will call Wednesday evenings except on meeting nights
- KO4ZFO or a board member will call Thursday evenings
- Fridays will continue to be called by NC4MP
- And we need backups – JUST BECAUSE.

Please contact Rodney Warren (KO4ZFO) or Don Nicholson (KN4OEY), if you are interested in calling one or more nets.

SWARC Mission Statement

South Wake ARC's primary purpose is to further the Amateur Radio Service through programs, activities, and education, in order to promote the radio knowledge, fraternalism and individual operating efficiency of its members. Further, it shall be our purpose to support the welfare of our community through public service including radio communications for emergency situations and public events, and through providing information, training, and assistance to individuals or organizations with an interest in



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the Amateur Radio Service. Refer to the SWARC web site for the Board of Directors/Officers and Appointed Positions.

LINKS (if you have other links you want added then send them to me)

PRN

A Wide Area Digital Amateur Radio Network

www.ncprn.net

GigaParts

www.gigaparts.com

QRZ

www.qrz.com

Ham Radio Outlet HRO

www.hamradio.com

Raleigh Amateur Radio Society RARS

www.rars.org

Johnson Amateur Radio Society JARS

www.jars..net

South Wake Amateur Radio Club SWARC

www.southwakearc.com

Carolina 440 Network

www.carolina440.net

North Carolina Packet

www.ncpacket.com

TARPN (Terrestrial Amateur Packet Radio Net)

www.tarpn.net

Useful Ham Info

www.torborg.com/a

Five County Ham Radio Enthusiasts

www.fivecountyhre.org



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ARRL Podcasts

On the Air

Sponsored by [lcom](https://www.lcom.com)

The December 2023 episode of the On the Air podcast ties into a feature in the November/December issue called "Bits and Baud," which discussed important elements of digital communication, namely the quantity of information a transmission delivers -- known as bit rate -- and the rate of speed at which the information is delivered, which is known as baud rate. In this podcast episode, we're joined by the article's author, former QST Editor Steve Ford, WB8IMY, who explains more about the differences between bit rate and baud rate, as well as why hams are concerned with these measurements in the first place.



ARRL Audio News

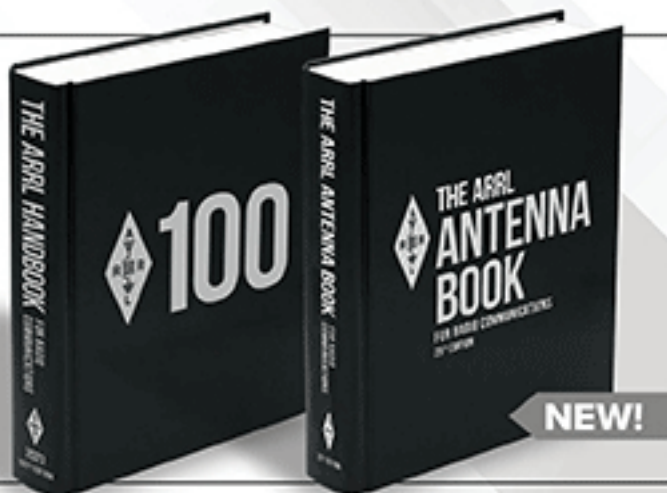
Listen to [ARRL Audio News](https://www.arrl.org/audio-news), available every Friday. ARRL Audio News is a summary of the week's top news stories in the world of amateur radio and ARRL, along with interviews and other features.

The On the Air podcast and ARRL Audio News are available on blubrry, iTunes, and Apple Podcasts -- [On the Air](https://www.arrl.org/audio-news) | [ARRL Audio News](https://www.arrl.org/audio-news).



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Announcements

Amateur Radio on the International Space Station (ARISS) has announced the schools/host organizations selected for scheduled contacts with International Space Station (ISS) crew from July to December 2024. The primary goals of the ARISS program are to engage young people in science, technology, engineering, arts, and math (STEAM) activities and to raise their awareness of space communications, radio communications, space exploration, and related areas of study and career possibilities. ARISS anticipates NASA will be able to provide scheduling opportunities for the six host organizations as they complete equipment plans that allow them to execute ham radio contacts. Once their equipment plans are approved by ARISS, the ISS contacts will be scheduled as availability allows.

The selected schools and host organizations are:

- Coastal Community School in Satellite Beach, Florida
- The Computer Museum of America in Roswell, Georgia
- The Kopernik Observatory & Science Center in Vestal, New York
- Immaculate Heart of Mary School in Wayne, New Jersey
- The Magnet Innovation Center in Inlet Beach, Florida
- Midlands STEM Charter School in Winnsboro, South Carolina

ARISS is a cooperative venture of international amateur radio societies and the space agencies that support the ISS. In the US, participating organizations include NASA's Space Communications and Navigation program (SCaN), the ISS National Laboratory -- Space Station Explorers, [ARRL](http://www.arrl.org), and AMSAT. For more information, visit <http://www.ariss.org>.

In Brief...

A YouTube telethon fundraiser held on December 22, 2023, and hosted by several popular ham radio YouTubers from the Ham Radio Tube channel helped raise money for the ARRL Teachers Institute (TI) on Wireless Technology. ARRL Education and Learning Manager Steve Goodgame, K5ATA, was featured on the telethon. "We streamed for over 5 hours on Mike's, K8MRD, YouTube channel," said Goodgame. "The total amount raised was over \$18,000. The YouTube community has rallied behind the TI and expressed interest in doing similar events on a recurring basis." The TI is entirely donor-funded and has seen many recent successes. In 2023, 65 educators attended, and 95% of them are now licensed hams; 20 of them received



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their licenses during the TI and 12 more upgraded their license class. Graduates of the program leave with equipment and instructional material to take into the classroom, allowing them to incorporate amateur radio into science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) education. A replay of the event can be watched at [ARRL Teachers Institute Fundraiser With Steve K5ATA \(youtube.com\)](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=K5ATA). To directly support the TI, visit www.arrl.org/GiveToSTEM.

A special 6-month event designed to celebrate the 90th anniversary of the first official transmission of Radio Luxembourg Broadcasting has concluded. The event gave amateur radio operators and shortwave listeners around the world the opportunity to work or hear special event call sign LX90RTL. Overall, 27,922 contacts were made with LX90RTL, 13.4% of participating stations were from the US, 11.3% were from Germany, and 214 were from DXCC entities, and they included all 40 CQ zones and all 50 US states. More details are available at <https://www.qrz.com/db/LX90RTL>) and [RadioLuxembourg](https://www.radioluxembourg.com).

The K7RA Solar Update

Tad Cook, K7RA, of Seattle, Washington, reports for this week's ARRL Propagation Bulletin, ARLP001:



This solar disk image was taken on January 4, 2024.



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[Photo courtesy of NASA SDO/HMI]

Only four new sunspot groups emerged over the past week: one on December 28, 2023, another on December 31, and two more on January 2 and 3, 2024.

Solar indices sank. The average daily sunspot number declined from 114.4 to 63.4, and the average daily solar flux declined from 172.6 to 141.9.

Average daily planetary A index rose from 8.4 to 6.7, and middle latitude numbers rose from 4 to 5.1.

Predicted solar flux over the next few weeks looks moderate. It will be 145 on January 4 - 5; 150 on January 6 - 8; 155 on January 9; 160 on January 10 - 11; 155 on January 12 - 14; 160, 165, 160, and 155 on January 15 - 18; 150 on January 19 - 21; 145 and 140 on January 22 - 23, and 135 on January 24 - 26.

Predicted planetary A index is 8 on January 4; 5 on January 5 - 7; 10 on January 8 - 10, and 5 on January 11 - 26.

Solar activity looks soft as of late, but perhaps we will see a double peak during this cycle.

See an illustration comparing progress in the current cycle to the last cycle, month by month since each solar minimum, at: <https://bit.ly/4aMBefh>. The second chart from the top of the page is labeled "Solar Cycle Comparison." The red line is the last cycle, and it was probably smoothed by monthly averages. The darker blue-green line is probably a conventional moving average with the points on the line smoothed over a year. The yellow line is the current cycle -- also probably smoothed over a year -- and the lighter blue-green line is the current cycle, which was probably smoothed with monthly numbers. This data looks promising for future activity.

Sunspot numbers for December 28, 2023, through January 3, 2024, were 83, 92, 48, 55, 44, 59, and 63, with a mean of 63.4. The 10.7-centimeter flux was 146.7, 142.9, 139.7, 146.2, 135.7, 142.1, and 140.2, with a mean of 141.9. Estimated planetary A indices were 3, 6, 5, 4, 10, 8, and 11, with a mean of 6.7. Middle latitude A index was 2, 6, 4, 2, 6, 8, and 8, with a mean of 5.1.

Send your tips, questions, or comments to k7ra@arrl.net.

A comprehensive K7RA Solar Update is posted Fridays on the ARRL website. For more information concerning radio propagation, [visit](#) the ARRL Technical Information Service, [read](#) "What the Numbers Mean...", and [check out](#) the Propagation Page of Carl Luetzelschwab, K9LA.

A propagation bulletin [archive](#) is available. For customizable propagation charts, visit the [VOACAP Online for Ham Radio](#) website.



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[Share](#) your reports and observations.

A weekly, full report is posted on [ARRL News](#).

Just Ahead in Radiosport

- January 5 -- QRP Fox Hunt (CW)
- January 5 -- 5 K1USN Slow Speed Test (CW)
- January 6 -- PODXS 070 Club PSKFest (digital)
- January 6 -- Marconi Club ARI Loano QSO Party Day (CW)
- January 6 - 7 -- WW PMC Contest (CW, phone)
- January 6 -- RSGB AFS Contest (CW)
- January 6 -- [ARRL Kids Day](#) (phone)
- January 6 - 7 -- [ARRL RTTY Roundup](#) (RTTY only)
- January 6 - 7 -- EUCW 160-Meter Contest (CW)
- January 8 -- 4 States QRP Group Second Sunday Sprint (CW)
- January 10 -- VHF-UHF FT8 Activity Contest (FT8)

Visit the [ARRL Contest Calendar](#) for more events and information.

Upcoming Section, State, and Division Conventions

- January 6 | [Ham Radio University](#), hosting the ARRL New York City-Long Island Section Convention, Brookville, New York
- January 12 - 14 | [ARRL Puerto Rico State Convention](#), Hatillo, Puerto Rico
- January 19 - 20 | [Cowntown Hamfest](#), hosting the ARRL North Texas Section Convention, Forest Hill, Texas
- January 27 | [Winterfest](#), hosting the ARRL Midwest Division Convention, Collinsville, Illinois
- February 2 - 3 | [Capital City Hamfest 2024](#), hosting the ARRL Mississippi State Convention, Jackson, Mississippi
- February 9 - 11 | [Orlando HamCation](#), hosting the ARRL Florida State



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Convention, Orlando, Florida

- February 24 | [Central Dakota Amateur Radio Club](#), hosting the ARRL North Dakota State Convention, Bismarck, North Dakota
- February 24 | [HAM-CON](#), hosting the ARRL Vermont State Convention, Colchester, Vermont
- March 1 - 2 | [Greater Houston HamFest](#), sponsoring the ARRL West Gulf Division Convention, Rosenberg, Texas

Search the [ARRL Hamfest and Convention Database](#) to find events in your area.

Have News for ARRL?

Submissions for the ARRL Letter and ARRL News can be sent to news@arrl.org. --
John E. Ross, KD8IDJ, ARRL News [Editor](#)

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- Listen to [ARRL Audio News](#), available every Friday.
- *The ARRL Letter* is available in an accessible format, posted weekly to the [Blind-hams Groups.io](#) email group. The group is dedicated to discussions about amateur radio as it concerns blind hams, plus related topics including ham radio use of adaptive technology.
- [NCJ -- National Contest Journal](#). Published bimonthly, features articles by top contesters, letters, hints, statistics, scores, NA





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Sprint, and QSO parties.

- [QEX -- A Forum for Communications Experimenters](#). Published bimonthly, features technical articles, construction projects, columns, and other items of interest to radio amateurs and communications professionals.

Free of charge to ARRL members...

- [Subscribe](#) to the *ARES Letter* (monthly public service and emergency communications news), the *ARRL Contest Update* (biweekly contest newsletter), Division and Section news alerts, and much more!
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